

## **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards**

### **November 30, 2011**

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*In total 58 awards will be presented to 150 firefighters: one Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service; 19 Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct; six Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters; two Excellence in Leadership Awards; 12 Fire Marshal's Awards; 13 Medals of Valor; and five Medals of Honor.*

#### **5 Medals of Honor:**

##### **Wareham Fire Department**

**FF Michael P. Bird  
FF David C. Wahlstrom**

**Rescued driver from truck on  
fire**

As mentioned earlier, on March 25, 2011, the Wareham Fire Department responded to a residence that had been driven into by a truck. The driver was trapped inside of the truck, and the firefighters faced many hazards, including arcing electrical wires, a sheered off natural gas line, and burning due to the shifting of the structure. In the attempt to rescue the trapped driver, FF David Wahlstrom provided a protective water curtain while FF Michael Bird attempted to extricate the victim. After hearing the driver screaming for help and noticing the truck filling up with smoke, FF Bird took out a part of the back window and tried to get into the bed of the pickup. As the truck slid deeper into the basement, FF Bird jumped off the truck, went to the driver's side, and pried the door to assess the situation. Observing that the victim was having trouble breathing from the smoke, FF Bird gave him his air mask. After repeated attempts to rescue the driver and fatigue, FF Bird and FF Wahlstrom switched positions. FF Wahlstrom jumped into the back of the truck and pulled the driver out as FF Bird pulled on the driver's door and protected them with the hose line. With all the strength he had, FF Wahlstrom pulled the driver through the back window of the truck. Under the utmost extreme environment, FF Bird and FF Wahlstrom saved that man's life.

##### **Pittsfield Fire Department**

**FF Thomas J. Lange (posthumously)  
Pamela Lange (widow)  
Patrick and Todd (two sons)**

On February 5, 1978, FF Thomas Lange performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a male victim in cardiac arrest. During that rescue, the victim vomited directly into FF Lange's face and mouth. Due to the incident occurring years before Blood borne Pathogens/Infection Control training was the norm and the current HIPAA regulations were in effect, FF Lange did not use any means of personal protective equipment. The victim was a known hepatitis carrier. In 1997, Lange underwent a series of medical tests to determine the cause of his chronic fatigue and low iron. He was then diagnosed with Hepatitis C. After beginning a series of treatments to fight the disease, FF Lange transferred into the Fire Prevention Bureau, which gave him flexibility to continue to receive treatments. On June 25, 2006, FF Lange retired on a medical disability. He continued with multiple treatments and experimental clinical trials with the hopes of being cured, seeing some reduction in the progression of the disease, or developing treatments for others with the disease. On May 20, 2011, FF Lange, at the age of 60, passed away at his home surrounded by family. He left behind his wife of 36 years, Pamela, and his two sons, Patrick and Todd.

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### **Rehoboth Fire Department**

**FF Kenneth Marshall Jr. (posthumously)**  
**Bethany Marshall (widow)**  
**Trevor and Brianna (two children)**

On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2010, the Rehoboth Fire Department responded to a cooking fire in a single-family home. FF Kenneth Marshall Jr., while driving the engine that was responding, slumped over the wheel as he pulled out of the station. The other firefighters stopped the truck, pulled FF Marshall out of it and initiated emergency medical procedures in an attempt to revive him. He was transported to Sturdy Memorial Hospital where FF Marshall, at the very young age of 33, was pronounced dead. FF Marshall, a third generation Rehoboth firefighter, had been a member of the department for 15 years. He left behind his wife, Bethany, and two children, Trevor and Brianna.

### **Salisbury Fire Department**

**Lt. Timothy J. Oliveira (posthumously)**  
**Pamela Oliveira (widow)**  
**Nicole and Kaylie (two daughters)**

On July 31, 2011, Lt. Oliveira, who was in charge of vehicle maintenance for the Salisbury Fire Department, passed away from injuries sustained performing normal maintenance on a department SUV. A jack slipped and pinned him beneath the vehicle. At the young age of 52, Lt. Oliveira, a well-respected and dedicated firefighter, lost his life. Lt. Oliveira was a man that led by example and was meticulous in everything he did. A graduate of Whittier Vocational Technical School, Class of 1977, he was a Salisbury firefighter for 27 years and a member of the International Association of Firefighters Local 4694. He left behind his wife of 31 years, Pamela, and his two daughters, Nicole and Kaylie.

### **13 Medals of Valor:**

#### **Lowell Fire Department**

**Capt. Brett Dowling**  
**Lt. Jason Strunk**  
**FF John Diaz**  
**FF Roberto Maldonado**  
**FF Donald Milinazzo**

**Rescued seven people from  
four-story building fire**

On October 10, 2010, Lowell firefighters (E-6, E-3, E-1, L-3 and Car 2) responded to a four-story building fire. Upon arrival, a man was yelling out of his fourth-floor apartment window that there was a fire on his floor and that he was trapped. Although the crews from Ladder 3 and Engine 1 tried to place a ladder and attempt to reach the man, he fell before they could save him. The operator of L-3, Firefighter Donald Milinazzo, was instructed to raise a tower ladder to the people on the fourth floor, which was made extremely difficult by high-tension wires directly below the window where the victims were trapped. Captain Brett Dowling and Firefighter John Diaz climbed up to the fourth floor and began to bring people down. After being informed that there was still another person in the apartment, Capt. Dowling requested help and the crew from E-7, Lt. Jason Strunk and Firefighter Rob Maldonado, went to assist Dowling and Diaz. Capt. Dowling entered the apartment and located a man in cardiac arrest. Despite overwhelming heat and deteriorating conditions inside of the apartment, Lt. Strunk, FF Maldonado, and FF Diaz joined Capt. Dowling and were able to move the

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man onto a small fire balcony below the window. He had no pulse and was not breathing, and so an order was given to leave the victim on the fire balcony. The dangerous climb down from the balcony was successful. FF Maldonado was treated for smoke inhalation, and Lt. Strunk was treated for smoke inhalation and a back injury. Due to the outstanding actions of these firefighters, seven people were rescued.

#### **Somerville Fire Department**

#### **FF Michael Marino**

#### **Off-duty, he rescued a woman from a flooded tunnel**

As mentioned before, on July 10, 2010, Somerville experienced a downpour that flooded a tunnel and trapped a woman that did not know how to swim. Off-duty Firefighter Michael Marino swam into the filthy water, with no regard for his own safety, and assisted the woman by calming her and swimming her to safety. FF Marino, as a former Navy rescue swimmer, proved his dedication to duty, his professionalism, and his valor in this incident.

#### **Somerville Fire Department**

#### **Acting Lt. John Donovan Lt. Stephen Ortolani**

#### **Rescued two large victims from house fire**

As mentioned before, on January 17, 2011, there was a house fire in Somerville, where people were trapped on the second floor. Firefighters faced heavy fire and smoke, extreme heat, and zero visibility, yet Acting Lt. John Donovan of Tower Company 1 and Lt. Stephen Ortolani of Ladder Company 3 each rescued one victim from the burning house. Acting Lt. Donovan rescued a large woman with great difficulty, due to the narrow staircase and the victim's size. Lieutenant Stephen Ortolani performed a primary search of the second floor, where he located a very large male victim. With great difficulty and personal injury, he carried this person down the rear stairway. Sadly, both victims died shortly after arrival to the hospital. Although the end result was sad, it does not diminish the efforts and action that these men took. Their actions are worthy of recognition.

#### **West Bridgewater Fire Department**

#### **FF/P Lincoln Thibeault**

#### **Rescued fellow firefighter from a cellar fire**

On August 4, 2011, the West Bridgewater Fire Department responded to a building fire. Firefighters Lincoln Thibeault and David Niklason began a primary search under heavy fire and smoke conditions and zero visibility. FF Niklason fell through a weakened first floor into a cellar that was heavily involved in fire. Fortunately, he landed on top of a water heater, but he was stuck and could not climb out. FF Thibeault immediately called a "mayday," located FF Niklason, and lifted him back through the opening and guided him outside.

#### **Lynn Fire Department**

#### **FF/P Derek Spitaleri**

#### **Rescued teenager from pond**

On July 27, 2010, a group of high school students were swimming in a pond, where swimming was prohibited. The victim, a fifteen-year old male, was having trouble making it back to shore and submerged in the deep water. Help was summoned, and the Lynn Fire Department dispatched to the

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scene. FF Derek Spitaleri of Ladder Company 1, a former lifeguard, entered the water and began searching for the victim. Without a mask or swimming fins, Spitaleri executed six dives in the dark, murky water and found the victim. Members in a nearby boat grabbed Spitaleri and the victim and brought them to shore. The victim was still alive on the way to the hospital, but he sadly succumbed to drowning injuries shortly after. FF Spitaleri placed himself in a position of great stress and personal risk to save a life. Heavily fatigued and after ingesting a significant amount of water, he was able to surface with the victim in an attempt to save his life.

#### **Middleton Fire Department**

**Capt. Thomas Martinuk**  
**FF David Leary Jr.**  
**FF Charles Clinch IV**

**Rescued employees at a  
chemical processing plant  
explosion**

As mentioned earlier, on March 13, 2011, the Middleton Fire Department responded to an explosion in a chemical processing plant, where there was a major fire, several injured employees, and trapped victims. Captain Thomas J. Martinuk and Firefighters David Leary Jr. and Charles Clinch IV, members of Middleton Engine 1, were the initial response to the incident. They discovered four employees: one on the ground, two were ambulatory, and one was trapped. After rescuing the victim on the roof and tending to the other injured employees, they went onto their next tasks: fire suppression, exposure protection, and the protection of the environment and close neighborhoods.

#### **12 Fire Marshal's Awards**

The State Fire Marshal presented twelve awards to individuals who have worked to make the Commonwealth a safer place:

- **1 to V. Carlisle Smith**

V. Carlisle Smith has been a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, which makes the state's fire code, for over 55 years. Carlisle Smith was in the Army and was a volunteer firefighter, when he responded to the Coconut Grove fire in 1942. This led to his interest in fire prevention regulations where he provided his expertise as a chemical engineer. I am unaware of any other individual who has volunteered their expertise in service to the Commonwealth for such an extraordinary length of time. In the five and a half decades in which he has served on the board, Smith has made efforts to enhance the Fire Safety Code of Massachusetts, and his hard work has directly improved the safety of all residents of the Commonwealth from the threat of fire and explosion.

- **9 Tornado Response** – Agawam Chief Alan Sirois, Brimfield Acting Chief Frederick Piechota Jr., Monson Chief George L. Robichard, Southbridge Chief Richard J. Ciesla, Springfield Chief Gary G. Cassanelli, Sturbridge Chief Leonard E. Senecal, Westfield Chief Mary R. Regan, West Springfield Chief William Flaherty, and Wilbraham Chief Francis W. Nothe

This past year the Commonwealth experienced several extreme natural disasters: the tornadoes that touched down in western MA, Hurricane Irene, and the recent Halloween snowstorm. These situations created difficult circumstances where firefighters are responding

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to multiple simultaneous incidents, where fallen trees blocked roads, power was out, live wires were in the roads and communication was difficult: all complicating responses. Each and every time our firefighters heroically stepped to the plate to rescue and protect their neighbors often while their own homes were in ruin. In every affected community, our firefighters were there, risking their lives, and pulling long hours to serve their neighbors.

- **2 Tornado Recovery Community Service** – Norfolk Fire Department and Chelmsford Firefighters Tim Shanahan and Mike Chiasson

Fire Departments from across the state lent support to the devastated communities in the days following the tornado. The Town of Brimfield sustained significant damage as the result of the tornado, which severely drained their own resources. The Norfolk Fire Department provided much needed aid to the people of Brimfield and also planned a Community Meal serving 600 residents on the Town Common. On June 2, the following day on the tornado hit, Chelmsford firefighters Tim Shanahan and Mike Chiasson felt compelled to try to help. They had a simple request that would be the beginning of a massive relief effort to aid the victims of these devastating storms: to use their fire house as a place to collect donations and essentials items people needed. The movement grew as firefighter unions, media and businesses joined in to help. The Chelmsford Drop-off point generated more than two tractor-trailer loads of goods, which were brought to Springfield. Firefighters Timothy Shanahan and Michael Chiasson showed incredible leadership in creating huge outpouring of support to the towns in great need.

#### **2 Excellence in Leadership Awards:**

##### **Norfolk**

**Chief Coleman Bushnell**  
**FF/P Patrick Rockett**  
**Norfolk Engines 1 & 2**  
**Norfolk Ladder 1**  
**Wrentham Ladder 1 & Engine 3**  
**Franklin Engine 1**  
**Walpole Engine 2**  
**Mansfield Engines 1 & 2**

**Ambulance staff from:**  
**Norfolk (Rescues 1 & 2)**  
**Wrentham (Rescue 1)**  
**Franklin (Rescue 1)**  
**Walpole (A1)**

**Individual citations:**  
**Wrentham Chief Jay McMorrow**  
**Franklin Deputy Chief Paul Sharpe**  
**Walpole Chief Tim Bailey**  
**Plainville Chief Ted Joubert**  
**Foxboro Chief Roger Hatfield**

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On July 30, 2010, the Norfolk Fire Department responded to an explosion in a condominium unit under construction. There were multiple injuries, one of which proved fatal, in addition to many trapped workers in the building. Operational segments of the incident were assigned to Wrentham Fire Chief Jay McMorrow and Franklin Deputy Chief Paul Sharpe in Operations, Walpole Deputy Chief Tim Bailey in Safety, and Plainville Fire Chief Ted Joubert and Foxboro Fire Chief Roger Hatfield in Accountability. During the rescue process, firefighters worked under the threat of fire advancement and under near zero visibility. Firefighters were forced to remove self-contained breathing apparatus and helmets to reach trapped workers, resulting in carbon monoxide exposure to many companies.

### **Saugus**

#### **6 Bugles:**

**Chief James Blanchard  
Capt. Thomas Nolan  
Capt. Arthur Sinclair  
Capt. Christopher Rizza  
Lt. Robert Shannon  
Lt. Christopher Pozark**

**Responded to major tanker  
truck roll over and explosion**

#### **Group Citation:**

**Capt. Donald McQuaid  
Lt. Kevin McDermott  
Lt. Eric Hansen  
Lt. Thomas Kaminski  
FF Charles Shipulski  
FF Charles Stewart  
FF Matthew Fowler  
FF Scott Phelan  
FF Damian Drella  
FF Richard Ragucci  
FF Michael Barker  
FF Christopher Vinard  
FF Kevin Olsen  
FF Steven Rea  
FF Alex Watton  
FF Michael Autilio  
FF Christopher Piscitelli**

On July 23, 2011, Engines 1 and 3 and Ladder 1 responded to a gasoline tanker truck roll over. The entire tanker and tractor were fully involved in fire, and 10,000 gallons of gasoline created a river of burning fuel four inches deep. Eight other vehicles were involved in the crash, three of which were fully involved in flames, and the others were seriously damaged. Several live power lines had burned through and dropped to the street. Saugus Engine 3 set up and flowed foam to protect a nearby car dealership. Engine 1 flowed foam to protect a nearby gas station. Ladder 1 stretched a line from a hydrant and began a search of the flaming cars. The chief arrived on scene, struck additional alarms, and established a staging area. Rehab stations were set up and members began to rotate through,

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hydrating and cooling down. About twenty minutes into the incident, an explosion occurred. Flames shot up 70 feet high along a line approximately 1/8 of a mile long. Nearby homes and a commercial warehouse caught fire. An estimated 120 residents were evacuated and a senior center was opened as a shelter for these displaced residents. This fire required eight alarms and firefighters from 21 different communities. There was fire damage to the 10,000-gallon gasoline tanker and tractor, seven vehicles, five residential structures, one commercial structure, ¼ mile of asphalt, and several acres of brush. The driver of the gasoline tanker suffered fatal injuries, one person in a private vehicle suffered serious burns, and at least two other motorists suffered trauma type injuries. One firefighter suffered a heart attack and another suffered a knee injury.

### **6 Group Meritorious Conduct Awards:**

#### **Brookline Fire Department**

**Lt. Kyle M. McEachern  
FF Christine M. Hagerty  
FF Patricia A. Cripe  
FF Marcus W. Paes  
Lt. Paul B. Trahon  
FF Phillip Buckley  
FF Frederick C. Johnston  
FF Craig L. Campagna  
FF Paul D. Dubrow**

**Saved female victim from house fire and kept damage at minimum**

On March 29, 2011, these dedicated members of the Brookline Fire Department led a timely and aggressive interior attack under high heat and zero visibility, saved a life, and kept property damage to a minimum, demonstrating the Brookline Fire Department's mission "Life Safety and Property Preservation." Upon arrival at the building fire, Engine One stretched an attack line and Ladder #2 used forcible entry operations into the apartment. Upon entry, Engine One's crew headed towards the fire and Ladder Two's crew began a primary search. Engine One members located an unconscious woman lying on the kitchen floor of her apartment. She was removed from the apartment, given immediate medical care, and successfully resuscitated with oxygen. Her life was saved and the fire was extinguished with minimal fire loss, all due to the great professionalism and bravery of these firefighters.

#### **Lynn Fire Department**

**Lt. Michael McBride  
FF Edward Power  
FF Steven Snow  
Lt. Raymond Kane  
FF Robert McNulty  
FF Scott Barnard  
FF Steve Shellgren  
Lt. Matt Reddy**

**Through teamwork, they found a trapped male victim on the third floor of a building and assisted him onto a ladder, where he was then carried to the ground**

On February 11, 2011, Engine 1 was the first to arrive to the three-story building fire and the firefighters were notified that a male victim was trapped at a third floor window. The victim was leaning out from the window in a position that indicated that he was about to jump. Lt. McBride and FF Power stretched a hose line into the first floor and made their way up to the third floor to reach

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him. Meanwhile, Ladder Company 2 had arrived and deployed a ladder to the window. They were forced to overcome two problems in this maneuver: the icy snow bank where they had to place the ladder and also the proximity to the building, which restricted them from placing the ladder in the normal climbing angle. Because of these two issues, the Ladder 2 crew held the ladder steady while Lt. Reddy climbed up to the third floor window. Lt. McBride and FF Power reached the victim from the inside through zero visibility and increasing heat conditions. They assisted the victim onto the ladder where Lt. Reddy carried him to the ground. With the victim safely out of the building, Engine 1 members resumed their attempt at extinguishing the fire. If it weren't for the members of Engine 1 and Ladder 2 and their great demonstration of teamwork, this could have been a fatal fire.

### **Middleton Fire Department**

### **Responded to chemical processing plant explosion**

On March 13, 2011, the Middleton Fire Department responded to an explosion in a chemical processing plant. There was a major fire, several injured employees, and the structure was unstable. After rescuing a victim on the roof and tending to the other injured employees, the Middleton Fire Department members went onto their next tasks: fire suppression, exposure protection, and the protection of the environment and close neighborhoods. Crews protected storm drains and set booms in the nearby Ipswich River to prevent any runoff from contaminating the river – a drinking water supply for several communities. The Middleton Fire Department quickly and effectively responded to this incident with professionalism. They utilized resources from 10 mutual aid communities, local and state leaders, building and code officials, and numerous others to mitigate this challenging incident.

### **Northbridge Fire Department**

### **Capt. David M. White**

**Lt. David Holmes**

**Lt. James Gosselin**

**FF Anthony Genga**

**FF Gary Noel**

**FF William White**

**FF Frank Brackley**

**Uxbridge Chief Peter Ostroskey**

**Uxbridge Capt. Steven Tancrell**

### **Rescued man and young boy from pond**

On August 16, 2011, the Northbridge Fire Department responded to a reported drowning. Upon arrival, a civilian was swimming towards shore with a young boy. As rescuers were bringing the boy to shore, an adult male victim was seen floating face down in the water further away from shore. Firefighters entered the water and brought him to shore. Both victims were in cardiac arrest. The efforts of the paramedics and hospital personnel were not successful in reviving the adult victim, but the young boy was resuscitated. His life was saved. Due to the large number of people in and around the water at the time and also language barriers, this was a difficult situation to manage. However, due to the bravery and dedication of our firefighters, the life of a young boy was saved.



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#### **Somerville Fire Department**

**Capt. John Keane**  
**FF Paul French**  
**FF Michael Powers**  
**Acting Lt. John Donovan**  
**FF Timothy Flynn**  
**FF Christopher Clark**

**Rescued large woman from house fire**

On January 17, 2011, the members of Engine #4 and Tower Company 1 responded to a house fire, where people were trapped on the second floor. The companies stretched a line to the second floor and searched for the victims. They encountered a large volume of fire, but were able to rescue a large woman. This rescue was very difficult due to the narrow staircase, the victim's size, and heavy fire conditions. Through teamwork and determination, the victim was removed from the fire. Sadly, even with the rapid removal of the victim and CPR attempts, the victim succumbed to her injuries. Although the end result was sad, it does not diminish the efforts and action these members took in going above and beyond to perform their duties.

#### **Stow Fire Department**

**Lt. Barry Evers**  
**FF Jeremy Fiorvanti**  
**FF Michael Scimeca**  
**Lt. Chris Camelio**

**Rescued father and son from a wildlife management area in the winter**

On February 3, 2011, these members of the Stow Fire Department responded to a case of a lost father and son in the Delaney Wildlife Management Area. The son was trapped in chest-deep snow and was suffering from hypothermia and frostbite. Through a lot of physical effort, these first responders searched through the area and found the victims. The crew moved very quickly and took turns carrying the son through deep snow to reach safety. Both victims were taken to the hospital by the Stow Fire Department ambulance. Though exhausting and time consuming, these first responders went above and beyond to save these lives.

#### **19 Individual Meritorious Conduct Awards:**

#### **Braintree Fire Department**

**Lt. James O'Brien**  
**FF William Barclay**  
**FF Jonathan Froio**

**Saved male victim from heavy fire**

On December 18, 2010, these members of the Braintree Fire Department responded to a building fire. Upon arrival, there was heavy smoke coming from the second floor and they were informed by two Braintree police officers that they had been unable to enter the fourth apartment due to heavy smoke and heat. Lt. O'Brien and FF Barclay entered the building and discovered a male victim lying face down outside the kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen was fully involved with fire. Lt. O'Brien, FF Barclay, and FF Froio moved the victim back down the hallway. Lt. O'Brien selflessly removed his mask and placed it on the victim to provide fresh air. After getting the victim safely outside and to EMS personnel, they returned to the building and extinguished the fire.

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#### **Brockton Fire Department**

**Capt. Scott Albanese  
FF Erick Leonard**

**Saved female victim trapped  
behind a door under heavy fire  
conditions**

On March 17, 2011, Captain Scott Albanese and Firefighter Erick Leonard reported to a house fire and performed a search for a woman trapped inside of the house. They abandoned their hose line and found her unconscious behind a door. Under heavy fire conditions, high heat, thick dark smoke, and rapidly deteriorating conditions, these two men were determined to save this woman's life.

#### **Brockton Fire Department**

**Capt. Shawn Kerr  
FF Roger Dwyer**

**Rescued victim in cellar fire**

On May 6, 2011, Captain Shawn Kerr and Firefighter Roger Dwyer responded to a cellar fire and searched for a trapped victim in the maze-like cellar. Without a hose line and under extreme heat and zero visibility, these firefighters discovered a recessed door and found the victim on the floor of an illegal basement apartment. Together they brought the victim out of the house to safety.

#### **Somerville Fire Department**

**Lt. Michael Anzalone  
FF John Beckwith  
FF Robert Galvin**

**Crew assisted fellow firefighter  
in saving woman from flooded  
tunnel**

On July 10, 2010, Somerville suffered a torrential rainstorm. The Somerville Fire Department received many calls for assistance, but one in particular stood out. A tunnel flooded and trapped a victim. Upon arrival, Lt. Anzalone, FF Beckwith, and FF Galvin found off-duty FF Michael Marino had swam into the rancid water and was assisting a motorist trapped on top of her vehicle. The woman did not know how to swim. The crew tried to throw a life preserver to FF Marino, but the distance was too great. Selflessly, the crew dropped various pieces of their gear and entered the black turbulent water to assist FF Marino in safely getting the victim to the tunnel opening. Due to the force of the water, the crew placed themselves at great risk, but they assured the safety of the victim and that of FF Marino.

#### **Wareham Fire Department**

**Capt. Edwin Brundage  
Chief Robert McDuffy  
FF Ralph Bradley**

**Crew rescued trapper driver  
from car, facing fire hazards  
and more**

On March 25, 2011, Engine 2 responded to a residence that had been driven into by a truck, pushing the house off the foundation. The driver was trapped inside of the truck, and the firefighters faced many hazards in this rescue. There were arcing electrical wires, a natural gas line was sheered off, and there was burning due to the shifting of the structure. The truck was on fire and the house was fully involved, yet these firefighters risked their lives to rescue the victim. Under the utmost extreme environment, they manually freed the driver and saved his life that night. Afterwards, the Engine 2 crew continued fire suppression and remained on scene until the fire was extinguished and the vehicle was removed.

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#### **Newton Fire Department**

**FF Nicholas McGrath**

**Off-duty, he assisted a family out of a burning house**

On March 30, 2011, Firefighter Nicholas McGrath was off duty, but he responded to a fire in a three-family home. He was informed that a family of three, including a baby, was still inside. After racing into the second floor of the house and assisting the family out of the house, he went back inside and performed a primary search of the house to make sure there was nobody else inside. Firefighter McGrath was only 26 at the time and had only been on the job for about two years.

#### **Williamstown Fire Department**

**FF Sean Peltier**

**Assst. Chief Michael Noyes**

**Rescued trapped driver from fire**

On May 15, 2011, Firefighter Sean P. Peltier was the first arriving firefighter to the scene where a car had hit a house. Both the house and the car were on fire and there was the risk of an explosion; Peltier grabbed the fire extinguisher from the ambulance and assisted in getting the trapped driver out. Conditions were deteriorating and Peltier ordered everyone away from the vehicle as he knocked down the fire and made several attempts to pull the driver out. Chief Michael Noyes then arrived and grabbed the driver and pulled him out. Peltier and Noyes then dragged the victim across the lawn to EMS personnel. This combined effort saved the driver's life.

#### **Worcester Fire Department**

**Lt. Jeffrey Dubeau**

**Off-duty, he saved the life of a driver that suffered a seizure**

On May 1, 2011, Firefighter Jeffrey Dubeau was off duty and driving with his young son. Dubeau noticed a drifting vehicle that seemed to be missing a driver. The driver had suffered a seizure and slumped over to the side. The car struck the center barrier, drifted back into the right travel lane, and was headed towards a busy four-way intersection. Firefighter Dubeau, realizing that a dangerous crash was imminent, intentionally placed his moving vehicle into the path of the other vehicle, slowing down and allowing the vehicle behind him to bump into him. By applying his brakes, he brought both vehicles to a controlled stop in the breakdown lane, avoiding a serious crash. FF Dubeau went above and beyond the call of duty, while he was off duty, especially in placing his and his son's lives in danger.

#### **Watertown Fire Department**

**Lt. Frank Aliquo (Ret.)**

**FF Michael Anastasi**

**FF David Meagher**

**Saved the life of a suicidal man**

On August 22, 2010, Lt. Aliquo, FF Anastasi, and FF Meagher responded to a medical call, where a man with altered mental status was cutting himself with a large kitchen knife and was threatening to commit suicide. After the police convinced the man to allow FF Anastasi to bandage his wounds, FF Anastasi developed a rapport with him and attempted to convince the man to disarm and surrender. The man then reentered the home and ingested a bottle of pills with brandy. At this point, Lt. Aliquo, FF Anastasi, and FF Meagher developed a plan to take the man into custody. They took physical

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control of the man, and he was later transported to the local emergency room and treated for lacerations and a drug overdose.

#### **Norman Knight Excellence in Community Service Award:**

**Bourne Fire Department**

**FF Craig Poirier**

**Organized “Homeless for the Holidays” for nine years**

Every December before Christmas, Firefighter Poirier organizes a group of fellow firefighters, family members, the radio station Pixy 103 FM and the local business community in raising funds for the homeless. By camping out on Main Street of Bourne for 103 hours, where he has created “Homeless for the Holidays,” Poirier and the rest of the crew have nightly entertainment from local musicians, a daily visit from Santa Claus, and donations accepted to benefit the Bourne Food Pantry and the Toys for Tots program. As of 2010, in the last nine years, the “Homeless for the Holidays” group has raised \$14,000 toys, 11,000 pounds of food, and \$106,000 in cash.